



YEARBOOK

The County
The Clubs
The Teams
The year that was

2021



GAA



The Clubs of

Ballymanus
Baltinglass
Blessington
Bray Emmets
Coolkenno

In the year that was

2021



Ballymanus

There was little more normality to the 2021 season, but unfortunately still no silverware despite a good shift put in by players and management throughout the year. Fine margins again at the end of the day, both in league and championship, and an array of what-if stories. There were however many positives too, and a year of first's for the club in other respects – the election of our first female club President, our first ever online lotto draw; and our first ever online Annual General meeting where the following officers were elected:

- President: Maureen Phillips
Vice-President: Fr. McCormack; Dinny Murphy; Michael Stapleton; Dan Kenny, Fr. McGovern; Dinny Kenny;
Chairman: Pat Carthy
Vice Chairman: Kevin Byrne
Secretary: Tara Kenny
Vice Secretary: Deirdre Whelan; Orla Tyrell
Joint Treasurers: Mary Byrne & Colm Coogan
PRO: Shane Whelan
Registrar: Brendan Doyle & Darragh O'Keeffe
Cultural Officer: Laura Burton
Child Welfare Officer: Deirdre Whelan
Lotto Co-ordinator: Michael Stapleton
County Board Delegates: Kevin Byrne; Pat Carthy; Mark Kenny
Juvenile Chairman: Noel O'Neill
Juvenile Officers: PJ Byrne; John Harmon

Under the Management of Billy Byrne; trainer Ciaran Walshe and selectors Larry Byrne; John Harmon and Gerry Keogh we hit the ground running in the league, winning five from



five (Ballymanus 3-12 vs. Barndarrig 0-9pts; Kilmac 2-8 vs. Ballymanus 2-12; Annacurra 0-10 vs. Ballymanus 1-13; Shillelagh-Coolboy 3-9 vs. Ballymanus 3-12; Ballymanus 7-13 vs. Ashford 3-6) with Paddy Byrne topping the Division 2 scorers charts (2-21) and Roan Lynch a close third (4-10). Cruising, well that is until we fell short against a hard-working Vallymount team in the league quarter-final in the Gap, giving up cheap goals at crucial times that ended up costing us. The kick up in the arse we needed maybe? Well it looked like that, and the show was wheels were back on the wagon when we chalked up a real good win against one of our old boggie teams Kilmac in a tough encounter. The final score read Ballymanus 2-7 to Kilmac 9pts, with a solid team performance and debuts to Sean Harmon; David Viera and Oisín



2021 Minor B Plate Winners ... the next Generation Billies!!!

Morrissey real positives. Next up was Kilcoole in what was to prove a dog-fight, both on and off the field, however we came good and ended up winning 8pts to 7pts after Kevin Byrne was sprung from the bench at the death to snatch the winner. In the quarter-final we faced Carnew in Baltin-glass, and in truth should have won but didn't. We certainly had enough chances, particularly early in the game that we left behind us that came to haunt us in the end as Carnew ground out the game and were clinical up front from play and placed balls – something we need to improve on if we are to reach the promised land. The juveniles continued their good work again this year, with representatives in hurling, football and camogie with Michael Dwyers; Knockananna and Tinahely amongst others, so take a peek at their sub-missions to see if there are any familiar faces.

Off the field, well kind of, clubman Darragh Byrne took charge of the Senior County Final this year and did a super job. In May, Orla Tyrell and her crew, together with various clubs all across the county, took part in a 24hr step-by-step challenge in aid of Talk to Tom - a suicide prevention charity setting up in Arklow – raising a whopping €29,300 along the way!!!

Finally, thank you to all who supported the club during the year, particularly club officers; our main sponsors (Road-stone); the management team and players; not to mention all who purchased / sold lotto tickets over the year. Special word of thanks to Brendan Doyle and Colm Coogan got the online lotto up and running, and managed it throughout the year, a real lifesaver for the club. With any luck we will get back to normal next year, and the green and white hoops will prosper once again, backed and spurred on by our loyal and trusted supporters. We have lost a few already (best of luck in Canada by the way Glenn) and no doubt will lose a few more along the way, but there's an injection of youth coming so hopefully, building on the last few years, rejuvenated spirits and a bit of luck who knows, maybe 2022 will be our year in both intermediate and Junior D grades ... watch this space.

#BaileMainusAbu



Things were somewhat back to normal for our Juvenile teams this year after a very disrupted 2020. There was a full programme of games for all teams and we were delighted to get our coaching groups in place in time for the return to play in May. Huge thanks must go to all of our coaches who helped out this year and we had top quality people training our juvenile boys at all ages. It was great to have a number of current adult players involved with various teams as they are the role models and it is brilliant for the kids to watch them playing at the weekend and then have them up coaching during the week. We would love to get more parents involved especially at the younger ages and we would encourage anyone to give it a go as it is very rewarding to get involved and help out with the juveniles.

Academy/Nursery

Early Academy/Nursery started in June and was led by a parent on Saturday mornings using the parent child model where parents stayed with their own child. It was a lovely

introduction for these young children on the astro pitch and thanks to all the parents for taking the initiative to run this mini-academy.

U7's

The U7's trained on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. They had huge numbers which was very encouraging for the future. This group took part in 8 Go Games blitzes throughout the Summer and finished the year with the Joe McHugh Cup.

U9's

The U9's trained on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings. Numbers are also good at this age group. Like the U7s this group also played in 8 Go Games blitzes and played some great football. They finished the year with a West Wicklow floodlit tournament on 3 Friday nights with different rules each night working on specific skills. They also played a couple of challenge games with Rathvilly and had the James Byrne Cup so overall they played lots of football and showed good potential.

U11's



The U11's trained on Monday and Thursday evenings. Numbers were steady but we would not want to lose any players from this group as they move up the ages. They won every game in their League Division 2 but lost out in the final to a strong St. Kevin's. We finished the year playing Rathvilly

away for the Tom Bolger Cup and came home with a great victory. At the end of the year the U11 boys beat Kiltegan to win the Allen cup which was a nice reward for this hard working bunch.

U13's

The U13's trained on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Numbers are quite low for this group and our focus is on player retention and making it an enjoyable environment for the

players to develop and want to keep going with. Results were mixed but we were competitive throughout and had a good attitude to keep going in games and this paid off as we won our last two games and won the Plate final against Shillelagh/Coolboy.

U15's

The U15s trained on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Numbers are also quite tight at this age and again the focus was on retaining all players through to minor while developing their skills and attitude. Similar to our U13s the results were mixed and we narrowly missed out on a top 4 finish but again showed a good attitude generally and were rewarded with a victory against Rathnew in our last game. This team also played in the Féile during the Summer which was played over one day. We played very well, winning 2 of our 3 games and losing the third by a late goal which meant we did not make the next round but we gave a great account of ourselves here.

Junior A's



The Junior A men had an excellent year winning the Division 2 Timmins cup and competing against Intermediate teams along the way. They came up against a really strong Barndarrig side in the County Final, a team that has been knocking on the door for many years. The Junior A team gave some tremendous displays, racked up some big scores and provided fantastic entertainment during the year.

Junior B's

Our Junior B team competed really well in the League and reached the semi Final, losing out to eventual Champions Dunlavin in a rip roaring contest in Baltinglass. Unfortunately, as happened in the past, the team got depleted with injuries and other factors taking its toll and also lack of playing numbers. It is really important this year that we have a transition program to facilitate players coming out of the minor ranks, who can learn their trade in the junior grade before they migrate to senior. It is an excellent environment to prepare them for senior football and allows them to develop at the appropriate pace. We must try to cater for all players irrespective of ability to ensure the Play to stay concept in the GAA is embraced in its totality. Well done to everybody (Players and Management) who rolled up their sleeves when the chips were down and responded to the call.

Games Promotional Officer

We have been trying for a couple of years now to get a Games Promotional Officer into the club and are delighted that Cormac Noone took up the role with the club during November. This is a joint venture partly funded by Lenister GAA and the club. He will work 20 hours with the club. A large portion of his time will be spent in the schools, coaching, identifying opportunities to grow our playing numbers as we struggle with player numbers in some age groups. Coach education will also play a big part in his brief, better coaches make better players.

Minors

The U17s trained on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Numbers improved as the year went on. We showed great resilience to bounce back from 2 early defeats with a strong run of wins and eventually qualified for the A semi-final where a bad start left us too much to do against Arklow Geraldines/Ballymoney. Our challenge now is to transition as many of these players as possible into adult football over the next 2 years.

Player Pathway

We have this year for the first time in a number of years took part in the Player Pathway Leagues for U10s, U12s and U14s. This gave us extra games for players but was difficult at the higher ages where we are struggling for numbers. Well done to the U10s who played very well and won the league.

Senior's

Our senior men were beaten by the narrowest of margins in the county final and it was a tough one to take. Probably not at our best this year we reached the county final again and came up against a resurgent Blessington side, who had not won the Miley cup for 38 years. We, as a club have no doubt that we have the squad of players to bounce back. If our young players develop as they have done over the past year, our future could be very bright indeed. We thank all the senior mens teams coaches and management for their hard work all year.



Blessington

Senior's

Miley is Home!!

Those words echoed around Blessington on a cold Sunday evening on the 7th November.

Presented to Wicklow GAA by the Miley Family Blessington in 1961, the Miley cup has only resided in Blessington for 12 months in 60 years!! When the full time whistle was blown in Aghrim on November 7th Blessington GAA Club were crowned Wicklow Senior Football Championships for the first time in 38 years, there was a massive outpouring of emotion from young, old, friends, family players and management.

The homecoming and welcome that was received by the players and management was fitting for the most important person in town the Miley Cup, a large crowd welcomed home the players and management on the main street and the town square.

The Div 1 League started with a home victory over Tinahely and 6 more rounds of a shortened league due to Covid which ended with a defeat to Baltinglass in the Herbie Hill Cup Final in Baltinglass on a score line of 1-17 to 1-10.

The Championship journey began with a preliminary round victory over Bray Emmets, wins followed over



Dunlavin and Tinahely, AGB were the opponents for the quarter finals and followed as a tight tense affair that went to the wire, the game was won by a never say die attitude and 2 injury time points on a score line 1-09 to 0-11. Rathnew were the semi final opponents, a club with a tradition of winning and a club we have struggled to beat over the years in semi finals, it was going to take a performance for the ages and that's what the players delivered on a day for ghosts and Halloween trick or treating, the players banished some ghosts of the past. Baltinglass the club with tradition and a history of success in Wicklow and current county champions were the opponents, it wasn't a day for knocking on the door, it was a day for knocking the





door down and a man of the match performance from Kevin Hanlon and a late Kevin Quinn point injury time changed everything. Captain Patrick "Wacker" O'Connor expected

Minors



Two years ago the team played U15 division 2 final loosing in extra time and this year asked to move up to division 1 they wanted to take on the challenge of div1 football.

Team finished 5th out of 6 from an original 8 after two teams dropped to division 2. The team despite 4 to 6 injuries per game were competitive in most games except 1. lost 3 by a single score drawing 2 and winning 2, in 2 others lost by a margin but competed and stayed in the games.

A few of the players got more opportunity to play due to injuries and really benefited and stepped up.

the cup in the traditional blue and white hooped Nutriquick sponsored jersey which sent the Blessington Players and Support wild in celebrations.

The reward for Winning the Wicklow Championship was a trip to the unknown, the only thing we knew about Mullinhalgha was that they were the 4 times Longford champions in 6 years and that they were the fairytale story of the Leinster Club Championship in 2018, a late show proved to be the order of the day in Pearse Park and this Blessington team were starting to create some history and write their own story. The Journey ended in Newbridge on the 5th December with a large Blessington crowd in full voice and colour.

Miley will get the Royal treatment over Christmas and the journey to retain Miley begins again in January, for now we'll look back, enjoy the journey and roller coaster the players brought us all on, to see the smiles on faces, the town and community united by GAA.

The team lost the plate final by a point having played with 14 from 12 min into the game. We had a squad of 21 but with injuries need help from the 6 of U15 players to field. The lads trained hard during the year and built up an excellent team spirit the coaches were privileged to work with a good bunch of lads.

9 possibly 10 lads will most likely stay on to play adult football next year 11 U16 players will get another chance at minor again next year.

The Avon once again sponsored the team a huge thanks to them.

Thanks to Jess Brennan and Róisín Ellis for doing physio at games and Paddy Brophy for Physio.

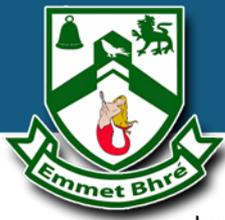
Stephen Bohan, Jack Gilligan, Jack Cotter, Pat Brennan, Davie Richardson for help with matches and coaching.

AnnMarie Carty, JulieAnn Williamson and Karen Richardson for help throughout the year.



Under 10's

Under 10 boys had a super season in 2021, taking part in the North Kildare League and winning the Under 11 Division 3 cup in Wicklow. A dedicated and brilliant bunch of kids were also treated by their coaches to an adventure morning in CP adventures and New Jersey's and kits. Well done to all, bring on the new season in 2022.



Bray Emmets

Senior Hurling

Joy As Hurlers Complete Second Hat-trick Of Titles



While it was the Bray Emmets footballers which created headlines in days long since past – we won our last senior title in 1935 as part of back to back victories, the modern day has seen Bray rise from the ashes as a hurling power within the county.

Two separate three-in-a-row of titles meant the club has won six of the last eight hurling county finals – no man feat in any age.

Arguably one man present during all those victories – John Henderson junior – has created his own place in the annals of Wicklow hurling as he also annexed three successive minor titles in the noughties while also winning titles at U12, U14 and U16 level. Some achievement and the hope is there's more to come!

Our journey to ultimate glory took many dramatic twists and turns before finally winning the O'Donoghue Cup this year when we had five points to spare over Glenealy on September 12 in Auhrim.

This competition got pride of place because of the Covid-19 situation and by playing in the better weather months, it gave our playing style a major advantage.

We had several players on the senior hurling panel and the aforementioned Henderson had the honour of being the county senior hurling captain.

Bray entered the Wicklow senior hurling league as well as the Dublin equivalent in preparation for the senior hurling championship.

Furthermore, with the popularity of hurling in the club and the need to provide games for the players we also decided to enter a third team having won the 2020 junior hurling championship.

After starting off our Dublin commitment late, we got up and running by drawing with our neighbours Cuala and won games against Commercials, St Judes and Ballinteer St John's.

With a condensed season, matches were coming thick and fast and it was an opportunity for all squad members to get game time as we had a number of players training with the County Hurling and Football teams.

Results were mixed with losses away to St. Patrick's, home to Carnew and Éire Óg and wins at home to Avondale and away to Kiltegan in a game where Michael Boland scored 1-16 in a remarkable performance. We drew an exciting game against Glenealy on their home ground after coming back from a slow start.

With such a hectic schedule of at least one match a week there was little time for training ground preparation for the championship. We were drawn in a group with

Avondale, Kilcoole and Carnew and came out group winners after a tight win against

Carnew and an easy victory over Avondale. Unfortunately, Kilcoole withdrew and we were awarded a walk-over.

In the knockout stages, we took on Kiltegan in early September – our opponent had come through the stronger side of the draw with some mighty impressive performances and proved to be a difficult hurdle. However our discipline and workrate finally won through with some classy attacking play from Diarmuid Masterson, Christy Moorehouse, Eoin McCormack and Mark Lennon. As it turned out, this semi-final joust was excellent preparation for the final against Glenealy.

Having won handsomely the previous year it could have been assumed that we were in for an easy ride. However although we started well with a very efficient first-half lead of nine points, Glenealy worked their way back in to the game. With great determination and no shortage of skill we prevailed by five points. Davy Maloney who had come back from a bad injury sustained with the county hurling team won the man of the match award.

As ever the panel's commitment to training was strong and the togetherness was evident.

We welcomed Dara Ó hAiníde into the fold following time spent hurling in the US, Arran Murphy returned from Canada and Mikey Lee returned to the Bray Emmet's colours after time spent in Tipperary. Importantly we were delighted to welcome some of last year's minor team Nathan Prunty and Jamie Ryan to train with us and hopefully more younger players will make their way into the squad.

Following the county final, our attention turned to preparation for the Leinster intermediate hurling championship. A nine-week wait was required until the first round. This was a chance to regroup and a number of challenge games were crucial. The strength of the panel was tested with two visits to Ballyboden and further competitive challenges against Celbridge, Kildalkey, Ratoath and UCD Freshers.

The most dramatic twist came before the first round when due to injuries and positive COVID tests we were short 12 panel members. Other clubs may have been tempted to look for a postponement but it was testament to our talent, resilience, strength in depth and team spirit that we travelled to Aughrim and overcame the Carlow champions, Naomh Bríd. Sadly, that was to be our Leinster highlight as we didn't turn up on the day when facing Wexford intermediate champions, Olyegate Glenbrien, who were much too strong and ended up deserving winners by 5-11 to 1-9 in Belfield, Enniscorthy.

Bray Emmet's Panel: Conor McNally, Peter Kiely, Karl Lacey, Sean Maloney, Cian Lohan, John Henderson, Daire Henderson, Luke Maloney, Diarmuid Masterson, Michael Boland, Marc Lennon, Christy Moorehouse Davy Maloney, Eoin McCormack, Mikey Lee. Daire Lohan, Shane Lohan, Arran Murphy, Dara Maloney, Ben McCormack, Peter Walsh, Liam Benville, Cathal O Dúalacháin. Rory Lambe, Andy Conway, Ro-

nan McMahon, Paul Cunningham, James Anders, Joe Phelan, Peter O Reilly, Liam Kenny, Michael Walsh, Mikey Timmons, Brian McCann, Sean McDonagh, Dara O hAiníde, Ben Kearney, Ciaran McKay, Jim Doyle, Gavin Henderson, Jamie Ryan, Nathan Prunty.

Manager: Paul Carley.

Selectors: Ronan O'Brien & Brian Duggan.

Physio: Cameron McKeever

Strength and Conditioning: Jack Lawrence

Stats: Tadhg Dornan.

Logistics Manager: Colm 'Skippy' McDonagh.

Team Liaison: Ciarán Barnes.

COVID-19 Supervisor: Larry Timmons

Bray Emmets – Wicklow Senior Hurling Champions 2021

Final Team: Conor McNally, Peter Kiely, Karl Lacey, Sean Moloney, Cian Lohan, John Henderson, Daire Henderson, Luke Maloney, Diarmuid Masterson, Eoin McCormack, Marc Lennon (Cpt), Mikie Lee, David Maloney, Michael Boland, Christy Moorehouse.

Subs used in final: Shane Lohan, Aaron Murphy, Daire Lohan, Ronan McMahon, Ben McCormack.

Unused final subs: Dara Maloney, Liam Banville, Ciaran McKay, Rory Lambe, Paul Cunningham, Brian McCann, Andy Conway, James Anders, Cathal Ó Dúalacháin.

Team Management: Paul Carley (Manager, from Glynn Barn-town, Co Wexford), Dr Ronan O'Brien & Brian Duggan (Se-lectors), Colm McDonagh (Kit man), Jack Lawrence (Strength and conditioning coach), Cameron McKeever (Physio), Larry Timmons (admin)

Results:

Beat Carnew Emmets 1-19 to 2-14

Beat Avondale 4-21 to 0-09

Beat Kiltegan 1-20 to 2-12 in semi final

Beat Glenealy 1-16 to 1-11 in final.

All games were played in Aughrim.

Senior Football



Footballers Recover To End Year On A High Note

As always, we started out on 2021 with high hopes of bridging the gap since 1935 but by year's end, we were fighting for our senior status with four cut-throat games in the Keating Cup – the competition for teams who failed to progress to the quarter-finals of the championship proper.

After losses to eventual champions Blessington in our first championship game and then a heart-breaking defeat to Rathnew on penalties after the sides could not be separated at full-time or at the end of extra-time, we left the championship highway to negotiate the rougher terrain of survival football.

It didn't start out well for us in the Keating Cup when Kiltegan came up to Bray and administered a right old drubbing to our charges, scoring five goals on the way. Ger Brennan and his backroom management team were now looking down the barrel of a gun and you would have got generous odds on Bray staying up after that match, given that they had to journey to Tinahely for a Sunday morning game the following weekend.

This was a game which proved the side had character aplenty. They recovered from the concession of a second minute goal to finally overhaul the home side thanks to a rare Dara Ó hAinmíh goal – and he was playing at full-back that day. We then repeated our sole championship victory against Éire Óg with another smash and grab one point win on Pitch Four when it looked like we were second best for much of that game.

We then were sure of survival before our final game against Newtown away but the team again bucked the trend of the game in which they trailed until finding the vital scores to emerge victorious once again.

That victory meant we had recovered to not only retain our senior status but qualify for the Keating Cup final against unbeaten Kiltegan – which due to the hurlers' Leinster involvement was put back to the New Year.

We won't have Ger Brennan with us for our next tilt at winning as he departed after a two-year term to take charge of Moorefield in Kildare. We wish him good luck in his new club. Looking back on this year, there was plenty of activity in and around the squad.

The senior panel for 2021 was missing eight players from the previous year's panel because they could not commit in 2021 for various reasons. However we did have the welcome addition of experienced players in Dara Ó hAinmíh, Arran Murphy and recent minor players Jack Treacy and Gavin Rochford. All Wicklow leagues were played with no promotion or relegation and initially on a

New GAA Book - a must read

GAA Grassroots: Stories From The Heart Of The GAA (Volume 1) – has been compiled by former Irish Independent Sports Editor and Bray Emmets man PJ Cunningham and is the result of almost two years of work sifted through hundreds of submissions from GAA members at home and abroad. GAA Grassroots is a veritable treasure trove of stories at club and county level – from the funny to the fabulous and the far fetched and everything in between.

Some of the stories included are those about Identical twins swapping places in a match at Croke Park, allegations that a boy dressed up as a girl to play in a camogie final in Westmeath and soccer international Niall Quinn's unceremonious return to earth in the junior ranks with Eadestown in Kildare.

However for use the four Wicklow stories are the best. Two were supplied by our

localised basis. In our first game in the league we played Dunlavin in Bray in July and after a poor performance, were deservedly beaten by 1-15 to 0-9.

The following week we travelled to Kiltegan, for a league game at 11am, only to arrive there and be informed that Kiltegan had notified the CCC that they did not have a team.

Our next action that month was against Hollywood in Bray, winning on a score line of 2-23 to 0-8.

On July 27, we received a walk-over from Éire Óg and then gave Carnew a walkover because we couldn't get the panel to Carnew for 7.30pm throw-in time. Two weeks, later we received a walk-over from Kilcoole.

With no promotion or relegation in the leagues, the games were in effect challenge games. We played Hollywood in Hollywood in early September in the final of the West Wicklow Cup and won by 3-12 to 0-10.

For that game, because of a clash with the hurling championship, we had the assistance four of our junior panel, Niall McGraynor, Mark Linahan, Cormac Martin and Jack Treacy.

Other members of the management team were Paddy Moynihan, Tom Kearney, Liam McGraynor, Patrick Wogan with Jack Lawrence (S-C), Cameron McKeever (Physio).

Top Scorers 2021: Des Kelly 2-25, Darragh Rochford 5-8, Paul Cunningham 0-20, Cathal McGee 1-9, Dara Ó hAinmíh 2-1, Mark Cullen 0-7, Arran Murphy 1-3,

Ben McCormack 1-3, Darie Lohan 1-3

Bray Emmets Senior panel: Paul O' Keefe, Tadgh Dornan, Sam Kearney, Adam Benson, David Martin, Cathal O' Dúalacháin, Daire Lohan, Shane Lohan, Dara O' hAinmíh, Ben McCormack, Arran Murphy, Ben Kearney, Rory Brisling, Mark Cullen, Eoin McCormack, Darragh Rochford, Des Kelly, Cathal McGee, Gavin Rochford, Cian Lohan, Paul Cunningham, Andrew Conway, Brian Nesbitt, John Henderson, Jack Treacy.



own Club President Jackie Napier. In one Jackie recalls one of his county's greatest ever triumphs when they won the All Ireland Junior hurling final against Hertfordshire after three games laden with controversy. The other one is the background to the All-Ireland junior football final and how loose lips nearly caused a strike before Wicklow overcame their differences and won.

Grassroots: Stories From The Heart Of The GAA (Volume 1), priced at €19.99, is available now in all good bookshops. If you have a GAA anecdote or story you would like to share for Volume 2, contact PJ Cunningham at: pj@gaastories.ie.



Juveniles

After 2020 had put to a lot of football activities to bed, we started 2021 with renewed interest and anticipation. Work in getting an improved nursery system in place began with Colin Murphy as Head Coach. He did tireless work recruiting new coaches and making sure things ran smoothly.

Nursery

Nursery numbers were reported as high as 30/35 children on

U11's



The u11s were taken by Jim and Pauric Murray. The team worked hard during the year attended training in good numbers and played with pride in themselves and in the dearg agus dubh of the Coolkenno Jersey. And on a cold Friday night in Annacurra, they got their just reward in winning their u11 final. We also fielded an u10 team in the player pathway league which I think is a great help to smaller clubs in retaining players at the club. Thumbs up to Hugh Kenny! We fielded teams u7/9/10 and 11 this year for the first time in a few years. We are building for the future and will be fielding an u12 team in 2022 also. Annette Ó'Se has done trojan work as Child Welfare Officer with Covid restrictions,

Idirmheánach / Intermediates

Covid once again ensured that 2021 was a shortened season with league competitions very much pared back. The Craobh/Championship structure was similar to 2020. The group stage was once again eschewed in favour of a back-door system in which last year's semi-finalists would get a buy to Round 2. Our progress to 2020's final ensured that we rested

a good evening.

U7's

Demmi Deegan and Conor Doyle took charge of the u7s which participated in every blitz during the year with good numbers of kids in attendance.

U9's

The u9s were under the guidance of Pauric Murray and Patrick Doyle. They gave a good account of themselves during the year with skill level improving immensely during the year.

courses, coaching badges and in making sure everything and everyone was in order.

Our club-school link has worked well this year with the year that was in it. We have coaches from both Carlow and Wicklow in the school in Ballyconell. Jim Murray and Stevie Cushe put their heads together to set up a coaching group within the juvenile club which involved members of the adult team and local people who were involved in the juvenile club. This has helped with coaching in the club with extra coaches available. The club has got stronger in the last couple of years with the work and efforts of the hard working coaches and club members. Here's looking forward to a busy 2022!

while others toiled for their place in the second round. In the end, the toiling turned out to have done Vallemount some service as they shocked us in our opening fixture.

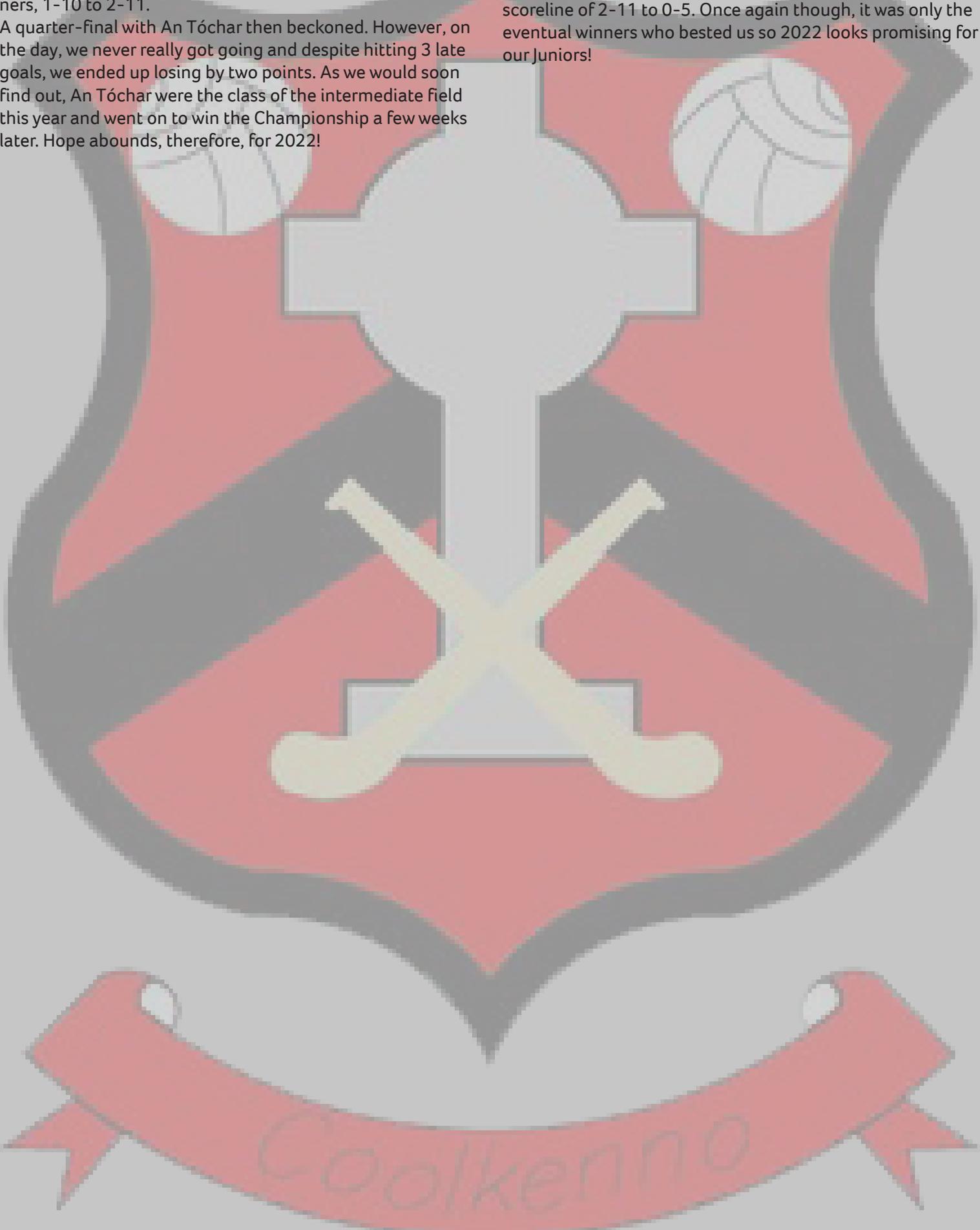
With two teams going down in 2021, there was then huge pressure on our next game against old rivals Annacurra, a team which had relegated us from senior ranks in 2017. Annacurra took the lead after 2 minutes with a free but that was to be the only time they led for the entire game. A Rian

Farrell goal after 20 minutes helped us to a five-point interval lead. Annacurra did get it back to just two points through a Frank Clune penalty on 38 minutes but we responded instantly with a well-worked goal from Liam O'Neill. From there we held Annacurra at arm's length and ran out winners, 1-10 to 2-11.

A quarter-final with An Tóchar then beckoned. However, on the day, we never really got going and despite hitting 3 late goals, we ended up losing by two points. As we would soon find out, An Tóchar were the class of the intermediate field this year and went on to win the Championship a few weeks later. Hope abounds, therefore, for 2022!

Sóisir / Junior

2021 saw the inauguration of a Junior D Football Championship in Wicklow. Our Juniors decided to take part and this decision proved to be a good one. They reached the semi-final before falling to eventual champions, Annacurra, on a scoreline of 2-11 to 0-5. Once again though, it was only the eventual winners who bested us so 2022 looks promising for our Juniors!



Coolkenno